

Senate Bill No. 877

CHAPTER 712

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

[Approved by Governor September 27, 2016. Filed with
Secretary of State September 27, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 877, Pan. Reporting and tracking of violent deaths.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health, which is responsible for various programs relating to the health and safety of people in the state, including licensing health facilities, regulating food and drug safety, and monitoring and preventing communicable and chronic diseases.

This bill would, to the extent that funding is appropriated by the Legislature or available through private funds in each fiscal year, require the department to establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System. The bill would further require the department to collect data on violent deaths, as specified, and to post on the department's Internet Web site a summary and analysis of the collected data. The bill would authorize the department to enter into a contract, grant, or other agreement with a local agency to collect certain data, within the agency's own jurisdiction or through other local agencies, as specified, and would authorize the department to apply for grants to implement these provisions. The bill would, to the extent that funding is available for this purpose, authorize a law enforcement agency to report to the department data on the circumstances surrounding all violent deaths from investigative reports and laboratory toxicology reports to be used by the department for the limited purpose of conducting public health surveillance and epidemiology. The bill would also make related legislative findings and declarations.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Information and data regarding violent deaths can help provide states and communities with a clearer understanding of violent deaths and therefore lead to better prevention of violent deaths.

(b) According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the United States, violence accounts for approximately 56,000 deaths annually. Violent deaths result from the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or a group or community,

and include suicide, homicide, and legal intervention deaths. Violence adversely affects all Americans, not only through premature death, but also through medical costs and lost productivity.

(c) The CDC further notes that the cost of these deaths totaled \$47.2 billion: \$47 billion in work loss costs and \$215 million in medical treatment.

(d) In 2002, the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) was established as a surveillance system that pulls together data on violent deaths. NVDRS collects information from death certificates, coroner or medical examiner reports, police reports, and crime laboratories.

(e) NVDRS data inform decisionmakers and program planners about the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of violent deaths in a particular state or community so appropriate prevention efforts can be identified and implemented, and the data facilitate the evaluation of state-based prevention programs and strategies.

(f) According to NVDRS, a national system will allow the CDC to provide information for every state to inform their prevention efforts. It will also ensure enhanced information on the national scope of the problem of violent deaths is available to monitor and track trends and to inform national efforts.

SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 3. Electronic Violent Death Reporting System

131230. (a) To the extent that funding is appropriated by the Legislature or available through private funds in each fiscal year, the department shall establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System.

(b) The department shall collect data on violent deaths as reported from data sources, including, but not limited to, death certificates, law enforcement reports, and coroner or medical examiner reports. The department shall post on its Internet Web site a summary and analysis of the collected data.

(c) (1) The department may enter into a contract, grant, or other agreement with a local agency to collect the data specified in subdivision (b) within the agency's jurisdiction.

(2) (A) The department may enter into a contract, grant, or other agreement with a local agency to collect the data specified in subdivision (b) from other local agencies if the following conditions are met:

(i) The local agency entering into the agreement agrees to collect the data from the other local agencies.

(ii) The local agency entering into the agreement is not responsible for reporting to the department data that have not been made available by the other local agencies.

(B) The other local agencies described in subparagraph (A) may also enter into their own agreements with the department pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) The data collected pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) shall be limited to data that the local agency entering into the agreement or the other local agencies are authorized to collect within their respective jurisdictions.

(4) A local agency entering into an agreement pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) shall collect data based on existing or new data elements required by the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System only to the extent that resources are made available.

(d) To the extent that funding is available for this purpose, a law enforcement agency may report to the department data on the circumstances surrounding all violent deaths from investigative reports and, if available, laboratory toxicology reports to be used by the department for the limited purpose of conducting public health surveillance and epidemiology. Aggregate data shall be public, but individual identifying information shall remain confidential. The collected data shall be based on the data elements of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Violent Death Reporting System.

(e) The department may apply for grants provided under the National Violent Death Reporting System for purposes of implementing this section.

(f) The department may accept private or foundation moneys to implement this section.

(g) This section does not limit data sources that the department may collect, which may include any public agency document that may contain data on violent deaths.

131231. For purposes of this article, "violent death" means a death resulting from the use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or a group or community, and includes, but is not limited to, homicide, suicide, legal intervention deaths, unintentional firearm deaths, and undetermined intent deaths.